

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01499 131125Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
IO-14 /093 W
-----119996 140306Z /65

R 121946Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2785
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1499

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: DR. SCOTT PALMER - PRESENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THEME AT BNC

1. THE PRESENTATION BY DR. DAVID SCOTT PALMER ON US HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY
SPARKED A RARE PUBLIC POLITICAL DEBATE BETWEEN DEFENDERS AND OPPONENTS

OF THE STROESSNER REGIME. THE AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 80 PERSONS (EXCELLENT
FOR ASUNCION) INCLUDED LEADING RADICAL LIBERALS, LIBERALS, FEBRERISTAS,

AS WELL AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR, AND OFFICIAL
COLORADO PARTY MEMBERS AND IDEOLOGUES.

2. UNDER THE GUISE OF DIRECTING QUESTIONS TO PALMER, THESE ARTICULATE
INDIVIDUALS MADE SPEECHES OF THEIR OWN, VARIOUSLY CHARACTERIZING
STROESSNER AS A "POPULARLY ELECTED DEMOCRATIC LEADER" OR A "DICTATOR".

PRAISING HIS POLICIES AS ENLIGHTENED OR EXCORIATING THE GOVERNMENT
FOR VIOLATING HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ALLOWING CORRUPTION TO
FLOURISH. AS THE NEWLY APPOINTED PRESS LIAISON OFFICER OF THE
PRESIDENCY COMMENTED TO PALMER AFTERWARDS, THE OCCASION SHOWED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 01499 131125Z

THAT FREEDOM OF SPEECH EXISTS IN PARAGUAY. AND PALMER ACCURATELY
REPLIED: "AT LEAST THIS TIME."

3. THE INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS OF POLITICAL BELIEF AND/OR CON-
SCIENCE PROVIDED PALMER FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE ADDITIONAL
POINTS OF HIS OWN, REINFORCING HIS THESIS AND ADDING TO AN UNDER-
STANDING OF US POSITION ON HUMAN, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

4. THE EVENT WAS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY SINCE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IT IS ONLY THE SECOND PUBLIC DEBATE ON A HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE POLITICAL ISSUE FOR AT LEAST THE PAST FIVE YEARS (THE PREVIOUS OCCASION BEING LAST YEAR'S TELEVISED DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF ITAIPU).

5. REPORT OF PRESS REACTION TO THE PALMER PRESENTATION BY SEPTEL.
WHITE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DEBATES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCI01499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780160-0149
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780467/aaaacexw.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 048b61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2999332
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DR. SCOTT PALMER - PRESENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THEME AT BNC
TAGS: SHUM, PA, (PALMER, DAVID SCOTT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/048b61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014